



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Philadelphia District

## **PROJECT FACT SHEET**

### **Grover's Mill Pond Mercer County, NJ**

January 2009

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**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS:** Rep. Holt (NJ-12)

**APPROPRIATION / PHASE:**  
Continuing Authorities / Construction

**BUSINESS PROGRAM:**  
Ecosystem Restoration

**AUTHORITY:** Water Resources Development Act of 1996, Section 206, Aquatic Restoration.

**LOCATION:** Grover's Mill Pond is located on Big Bear Creek, a tributary of the Millstone River, which eventually flows into the Raritan River. The pond is located in West Windsor Township, Mercer County, NJ.

**DESCRIPTION:** The goal of the Grover's Mill Pond Restoration Project is to restore fisheries habitat in this degraded 37-acre freshwater pond. This goal will be accomplished through a combination of sediment removal from the existing pond bottom, physical habitat improvements, and state re-stocking efforts.

Over the years the pond has exhibited eutrophic tendencies (high algae and nutrient levels) and has silted to the point where average water depth is between one and four feet. This nutrient-rich silt directly influences the severity of anoxia (lack of dissolved oxygen in portions of the water column) and aquatic plant growth in the pond. The pond becomes anoxic and choked with excess aquatic vegetation during the summer. In addition, there is little refuge habitat for local fishery populations due to the shallowness of the water and the high water temperatures during the summer months and the ice and colder water temperatures during the winter season.

Approximately 50,000-60,000 cubic yards of nutrient laden silt-like sediment and organic matter will be removed from the pond bottom by a small portable hydraulic dredge. The dredge slurry will be piped to an 11-acre containment area located on township-owned property near the upstream end of the pond.

Sediment removal will: create more favorable water depths for local fishery populations, reduce subsequent excessive aquatic plant growth, provide additional habitat area due to decreased plant biomass within the pond, increase the availability of oxygen in the lower oxygen starved portions of the water column, and create contours to provide habitat diversity and refuge areas for fishery populations.

Fish habitat structures and turtle basking structures such as porcupine cribs will be placed into the pond to further enhance wildlife habitat. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries, stated that they will restock the pond with additional

## Grover's Mill Pond, Mercer County, NJ *(continued)*

largemouth bass and other gamefish in the Spring of 2009. As a result, recreational fishing opportunities for the public will increase.

When the containment area is disassembled, the dried dredge materials will be reshaped into a sledding hill or recreation field.

**STATUS:** The construction contract was awarded in September 2007. Construction of the containment area was completed on August 7, 2008 and dredging was completed on November 2, 2008. The containment area will be disassembled and the area will be regraded in the late summer of 2009.

<b>FINANCIAL DATA (\$000)</b>	Fed	Non-Fed	Total	<b>BUDGET DATA (\$000)</b>	Comments
PRP, Planning & Design Analysis	355	*191	546	Thru FY 06	**
Construction	2,879	1,550	4,429	FY 07	2712
				FY 08	0
				FY 09	0

\* Will be reimbursed during construction phase

\*\* \$500,000 included as line item in FY03 Appropriation, \$10,000 included as line item in FY02 Appropriation

**SPONSOR:** West Windsor Township, NJ

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